

## **Housing Authority - County of Los Angeles**

January 28, 2010

To: Los Angeles County Housing Commission

From: Bobbette A. Glover *Bobbette A. Glover*  
Assistant Executive Director

### **SUBJECT: UJIMA VILLAGE STATUS REPORT**

The following is an update on the most recent events regarding the closure of Ujima Village Housing Development.

#### Occupancy

On January 12, 2010, the Board authorized the Executive Director to issue 30-day notices to tenants who had not relocated by December 31, 2009. At this time three households remain on the property, one of which was served with a 30-day notice. There are procedural matters that preclude us from serving notices on the others, at this time.

#### Site Security

We are in the process of procuring a vendor to install perimeter fencing, and the contract will come to your Commission for consideration. The cost is expected to exceed \$200,000. We are also maintaining the VPS system to secure the structures. We will continue using both a private security service and Sheriff deputies to patrol the site.

#### Field Investigation and Testing

In November 2009 Exxon Mobil requested an extension from the Water Board to allow more time to complete the drilling and ground water testing phase of the field investigation. They cited various reasons for the delay, including concern for the safety of the residents still living at Ujima Village. While testing is ongoing at Magic Johnson Park, work has not begun at Ujima Village. In its January 19, 2010 letter, the Water Board granted a 60-day extension for submission of the report, now due on March 31, 2010.

#### HUD Meeting Follow-up

We are still awaiting HUD's written response to our request for reimbursement of operating expenses. Our attorney was notified last week that an initial reimbursement payment is forthcoming. No additional details were provided.

#### Claims

In mid-January additional claims were submitted to the County for personal injuries and wrongful death, bringing the total to 742. Upon review, County Counsel may determine that the latest claims were an untimely submission.

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Staff has completed its verification of tenancy, and to date have matched 258 names to our historical rent rolls. Staff is continuing its effort to confirm the names of all former tenants.

HUD has received a total of 746 claims, thus far. They have assigned a staff attorney from the Boston office to work on them.

California Public Records Act Request

We are completing the preparation of documents requested by the plaintiff's counsel, Anderson Kill Wood. We are in the process of making responsive documents available.

Freedom of Information Act Request

In November 2009 Anderson Kill Wood submitted a request to HUD's headquarters for records related to Ujima Village. HUD's attached letter states that they were unable to locate any documents responsive to the request. The request was referred to HUD's Los Angeles Field Office.

Community Meeting

On Monday January 25<sup>th</sup>, staff from the County's Department of Public Health (DPH) and members of the HACoLA/County legal team met with the Black Community Task Force to provide an update on field investigation and tenant relocation. The members suggested a future meeting in an ongoing effort to address their concerns about the health of the community.

Attachment

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Executive Secretariat

05:17:25 p.m. 11-23-2009

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-3000

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

November 23, 2009

Kathryn E. Pietrolungo, Esq.  
Anderson Kill Wood & Bender, P.C.  
864 E. Santa Clara Street  
Ventura, CA 93001

RE: Freedom of Information Act Request  
FOIA Control Nos.: 10-FI-HQ-00287 and FI-480789

Dear Ms. Pietrolungo:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated November 3, 2009, on behalf of your clients, low-income tenants previously or currently residing at Ujima Village, located at 941 E. 126<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Angeles, California. In your letter, you asked for copies of records responsive to 15 items listed in your request concerning Ujima Village.

When responding to a FOIA request, the Department of Housing and Urban Development searches for responsive documents existing up to the date the request is received in the Department's FOIA Office. Your request was received on November 5, 2009.

A search of Headquarters' records by knowledgeable staff failed to locate any records responsive to your request. Records potentially responsive to your request may be located in the Department's Los Angeles Field Office. Therefore, your request has been referred to that office for processing and direct reply to you. If you have questions regarding your request, you may contact the Los Angeles Field Office at:

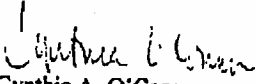
U.S. Department of Housing  
and Urban Development  
611 W. Sixth Street, Suite 800  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Attention: Morella Lombardi  
FOIA Liaison  
Telephone: (213) 534-2501  
Facsimile: (213) 894-8107

For your information, your FOIA request, including your identity and any information made available, is releasable to the public under subsequent FOIA requests. In responding to these requests, the Department does not release personal privacy information, such as home address, telephone number, or social security number, all of which are protected from disclosure under FOIA Exemption 6.

Thank you for your interest in the Department's programs and policies.

Sincerely,

  
Cynthia A. O'Connor  
Executive Secretary